



Toronto Environmental Alliance

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PRESS RELEASE

City Backing Down on Waste Diversion Plan

Toronto. Today the Toronto Environmental Alliance accused the City of downgrading its ambitious Task Force 2010 Waste Diversion Plan. Reacting to a new proposal to be considered by the works committee and the powerful budget committee on Monday Sept 10, TEA spokesperson Gord Perks said. "The city is backing down on waste diversion. Torontonians should be outraged."

Crucial elements of the 2010 plan have been dropped or delayed by the new report to the budget committee, and council's target of 60% waste diversion by 2006 is in danger of not being met. The report only details how the city will achieve 42% by 2006, leaving the remaining 18% up to 'new and emerging technologies'. "The only way Toronto can reach their 60% goal is by implementing organics diversion city-wide", said Mr. Perks.

Yet the staff report diverges from the Task Force's Plan and delays the implementation of source separated organics collection in four key areas:

- Prebudget approval for the purchase of 2.4 million worth of recycling trucks, as recommended in the Task Force's Plan, has been put off until after the 2002 budget process.
- Expansion of the Dufferin transfer station to compost source separated organics is limited a capacity of only 25,000 tonnes until 2004, which translates into handling only 6% of Toronto residents' organics.
- The implementation timetable for source separated organic pick-up for single family households detailed in the Task Force's report has been slowed. Instead of 180,000 homes receiving organics pickup in 2002, only 70,000 will have this service.
- The Task Force's recommendation for a staff report regarding a source separated organics system of apartment buildings to begin in 2003 has been inadequately addressed with a brief discussion of two pilot projects and no real plan to bring apartments on-line for organics diversion.

GORD SUMMARY

For more information contact:

Gord Perks: (W) 416- 596-0660
(H) 416-535-6322

Katring Miller: (W) 416-596-0660
(H) 416-533-6839

The Task Force 2010 report called for a tender to be let for the purchase of 2.4 million worth of recycling trucks this fall. This was to be given budget pre-approval at the October Council meeting. The staff has put this off until after the 2002 budget process.

1. The 2010 report called for Dufferin Transfer station was to immediately begin expansion at a capital cost of \$25 million. The Commissioner of Works was to report on the completed engineering and design work this fall. There is no report and the new staff report doesn't +++++
2. The implementation timetable has been slowed. The original start date was spring 2002. It has now been pushed back to July. More importantly, 100,000 homes that were scheduled for 2002 will not enter the program until 2004. After the next municipal election.

Year	Task for report	August staff report
2002	170,000	70,000
2003	270,000	180,000
2004	360,000	390,000
2005	450,000	490,000